

TEXAS COAST COUNTRY



ON THE
SUNSET-CENTRAL LINES

ISSUED BY
PASSENGER DEPARTMENT
HOUSTON, TEXAS

[1912]

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GENERAL PASSENGER DEPARTMENT
SUNSET-CENTRAL LINES
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The Coast Country of Texas

In delightfulness and salubriousness of climate from year's end to year's end, and over so large a proportion and great an extent of territory, from border to border; in magnitude of area and charming topography; in richness and variety of soils; in mineral and other natural resources; in breadth and length of still unoccupied fields offered for the profitable pursuit of agriculture and horticulture in all of their branches; in justice and wisdom of laws affecting capital and labor; in extent to which future material development in almost every line is possible; in solidity and rapidity of industrial growth now in progress, and in duration of time that progress is certain to continue with ever increasing momentum, Texas stands unrivaled in the United States, or elsewhere. It is not surpassed by any State in the South in liberal provisions and adequate facilities for free school, normal school, industrial school, and university education, and in denominational universities, colleges and schools; in well supported churches; in character of citizenship; in tone of society; in safeguards thrown about the home, and in certainty that a homestead, once acquired, can not be taken away from a family.

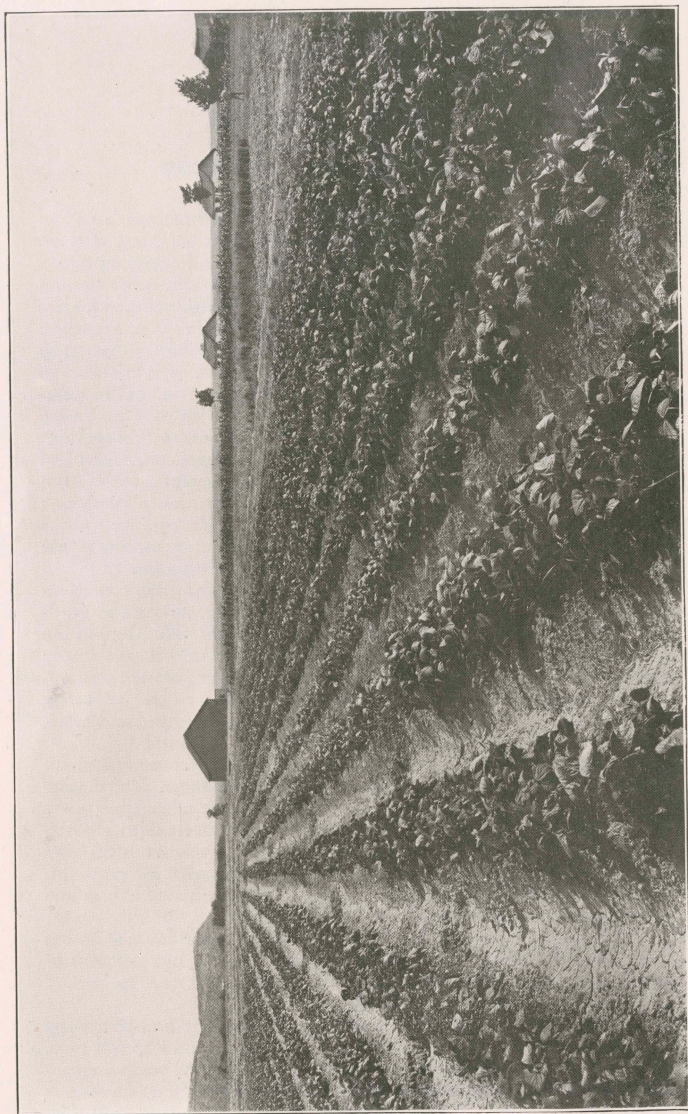
There is no other area of similar size on earth where the conditions are so favorable to general farming and stock raising, nowhere so much land suited to those pursuits remains to be taken up. This, too, in the face of the fact that agricultural progress in this State—always steady and considerable—has been greatly accelerated in the past ten years.

Texas is an Eldorado, but its treasures are not to be had by merely picking them up; the price of them is intelligent work of hand and brain, supplemented by the use of the lever and fulcrum of capital.

The wealth of Texas that can be drafted upon successfully and appropriated by these means—in more and more abundance, according to the extent to which they are applied—is stored in inexhaustible quantities in the State's vast stretches of fertile soils, unsurpassed climate, magnificent forests of pine and hardwoods, tens of thousands of miles of mineral deposits, streams that can be made navigable for great distances through regions finely adapted to agriculture, manufactures and commerce and numerous excellent harbors and fisheries.

Texas may be compared to a mighty building whose foundation has been laid and a small part of its superstructure raised, but sufficient to give a good idea of what its beauty, majesty and utility are to be, and to complete which more men and capital are needed.

The State has never before been in such a healthy and flourishing condition. There is room for everybody of the right kind who will come to Texas with means to accomplish what they desire, and we invite people of this sort to look into the merits of this State before establishing themselves elsewhere. If they cast their lots in this favored land they



FIELD OF BEANS

will receive a cordial welcome, and Opportunity, instead of being their chance visitor, will become a familiar friend.

If any one is doing well where he is and wishes to follow the rule "let well enough alone," that is all right; but the fact remains that Texas wants men who can do something, who have something to do it with and who desire more of the good things that brains and nerve and dash and muscle and financial means can make the earth yield, and if they come here they will set their feet in the broadest, straightest, smoothest and shortest road that anywhere leads to success—that, too, interpreting the term in its widest and best sense.

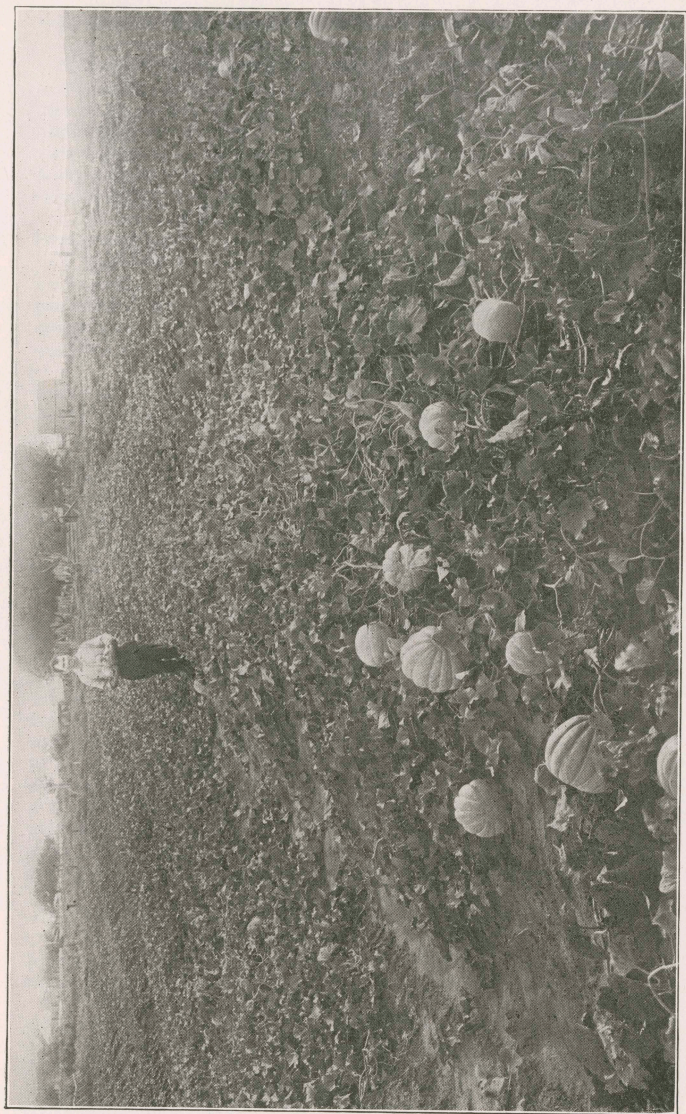
The Coast Country of Texas consists of a broad belt of nearly level prairie, extending from the timber line to the Gulf of Mexico. This line is well defined. Here the black land of the prairie meets the Gulf proper, or forms bluffs from ten to forty feet above the level of the long bays or lagoons, which are peculiar features of the Texas Coast topography, and which make the Texas Coast so pleasant as a place of residence, and so profitable as a farming country.

Broadly considered, the "Coast Country" extends from the Sabine River for about four hundred miles, or until it meets its extreme western boundary—Mexico, and the Rio Grande River. Its width is from fifty to a hundred miles, and the variety of soil almost infinite. In general character it resembles the prairies of Illinois or Kansas, except that it is minus the "roll," which is more or less distinctive of the Middle West, the Texas prairie being as level as a floor, with an almost imperceptible decline to the coast. This latter insures good drainage and lessens the expense of cultivation, a fact that the farmer may not disregard in the selection of a home.

The greater portion of the Coast Country of Texas is virgin soil, undefiled by plow or spade, just as it was a hundred years ago; just as it was when LaSalle landed at Matagorda and met an untimely fate because of his valor and enterprise. This condition prevailed until the cultivation of rice added to values and brought the vacant acres within the spell of the husbandman. The march of progress in this direction spread into the green pastures of Texas. It leaped the Sabine River, which marks its eastern boundary, and is today putting thousands of acres in the Texas belt into cultivation. The extent of these acres in the Lone Star State is so considerable, however, that much land classed as "virgin soil" today will be virgin soil twenty years hence, even with the rapid settlement of the sections referred to, and the constant and continual influx of settlers from the more populous sections of the West and North.

The region along the Gulf Coast, from the Sabine to the Rio Grande, is so vast that, no matter how great the inroads upon its extent, posterity only will be able to determine the real capacity of this fertile empire, or the day when its surface shall be blossoming with the fruits of the orchard and of the field.

The Coast Country today offers more opportunities for the employment of brain and capital than any part of the United States. The facilities are remarkably extensive and natural advantages without equal. Ever since the settlement of this favored country, the prairies have been devoted to the raising of live stock, and although thousands of finely



CANTALOUPE FIELD

bred Herefords and Durhams dot the broad green ranges, and make a component part of the wealth of Texas, the "cow man" is realizing that the land that will produce to the value of \$35.00 to \$100.00 per acre is too valuable to be given over to the steer, which needs many acres to produce a like amount.

The rich prairie lands will produce abundantly many of the prime crops. The future of intensive farming has been assured in the light of recent experiments, and the success which has attended the efforts of the farmers at various points in the Coast Country, along the Sunset-Central Lines, which penetrates that section, will lead to the development of its greatest natural resources.

Ninety-one counties from the Coast Country of Texas have a population of nearly 750,000 persons, yet it must be remembered that but a small portion of the area is settled by farmers, practically the entire area being given over to the cattle people. As mentioned, however, the rice industry has put into cultivation 230,000 acres, and the present impetus bids fair to place five times that quantity in other crops within the next decade, to say nothing of the territory which will be devoted to other products.

The future of the Coast Country is very bright, with the promise of a new agricultural dawn. Capital is being invested in this favored region, and thousands of investors from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Ohio and Minnesota are pouring into the Coast Country of Texas with a view of making permanent location therein. There is room for half the population of the West in the great prairie belt, and, therefore, there will be no crowding for a long time to come, while the thrift, industry and intelligence of the new blood will make the Coast Country blossom like a rose.

In a brief discussion of the several divisions of Texas, the Texas State department of agriculture described the Gulf Coast of Texas in the following language:

"This comprises an area of from fifty to seventy-five miles inland all along the Gulf Coast, beginning at the eastern boundary of the State and running westward and southwestward. For the most part this is a level and open prairie country. The soils are, for the greater area, of the several types of sandy lands, but many black land areas are found

"The eastern portion of this belt is in the area of greatest rainfall for the State. The level prairie lands of the entire belt are well suited for rice farming, and thousands of acres are now being cultivated successfully in this crop.

"This belt is also eminently suited to fig culture, and extensive orchards of figs are being planted. Canning factories are making a specialty of buying and preserving the fig crops. Hence a great orchard and manufacturing industry is being developed upon a profitable commercial basis.

"The Satsuma and Dugut oranges, propagated upon citrus trifoliata stocks, are also being grown and extensive plantings of these citrus fruits are being made.

"This district includes the greatest strawberry producing areas of the State. Carloads of this crop go from numerous points in Galveston, Harris and Brazoria counties each day during the berry season.

"All kinds of the usual truck crops may be grown successfully as well as all of the ordinary farm crops which may be required for use upon a farm. In the river bottom districts found in this belt there are some as rich agricultural lands as there are in the State, and produce abundantly either cotton or corn.

"The vast stretches of prairie lands not taken up with farms are covered with herds of cattle. There are hundreds of live stock men along the coastal belt who have made fortunes out of the live stock industry in this territory.

"In this district are found the immense plantations devoted to the culture of ribbon cane, and the greatest sugar producing area in this State is at present to be credited to this coastal region. The soil on which the ribbon cane is grown is of a deep chocolate alluvial nature, and is found plentifully in the bottoms of the principal rivers and streams traversing this belt."

The matchless climate of the Gulf Coast of Texas is among its most valuable possessions. Rainfall is a characteristic feature of this section and constitutes one of the great charms of Gulf Coast life. It is rarely that growing crops are cut short by drouths, and irrigation is not a necessity for crop yields except in the extreme southwestern portion. Irrigation everywhere is an insurance policy on the crops planted.

Under various conditions farming in the Gulf Coast of Texas has more features of interest and presents greater opportunities than any other section of the State. The wide range of products and the peculiarities of soil, climate and environment afford abundant scope for the energies and experiments of the wide-awake tiller of the soil from every section of the United States. One special feature about this section is that its soil and climate are favorable for the growth and production of all the valuable and high priced crops. This gives this section a unique position as an agricultural section. The successful and intelligent farmer in any other State would be equally successfully here. This statement applies to all branches of agriculture, for the reason that farming, like any other occupation, involves a fundamental knowledge, fortified with practical experience and the intelligence to understand the importance of adapting that knowledge and experience to different conditions. Plenty awaits industry intelligently applied.

This whole country is one vast health resort. A celebrated physician very truthfully said that we live in our lungs. Here we have the fresh Gulf breeze—the pure ozone right from the Mexican gulf—insuring health and long life. There is no dull monotony in the farm life in this section.

In the region embraced in the Gulf Coast of Texas are located some of the largest and most progressive cities of the State. These cities because of their geographic location are destined to outstrip the other cities of the State, both in population and importance. With the growth of these cities will come a general awakening in the contiguous territory. Land values are bound to advance with the improvement in road building, drainage and the building of farm homes. As the country becomes more densely populated a better system of agriculture will be installed and larger crop yields secured.

The Gulf Coast of Texas is not a one-crop section. A great diver-

sity of crops may be grown here, with unvarying success. Corn, rice, alfalfa, cotton, sugar cane, sorghum and truck crops are grown throughout this section, and the marketing facilities are equal to the best. Live stock of all kinds thrive in this section. Some of the largest stock ranches of the State are located in the Gulf Coast region. Poultry culture is a thriving industry here. Bee culture is also an industry in this territory of considerable importance. Some of the largest apiaries of the State are located here.

To the homeseeker who desires to locate in a section where farm life is made pleasant by the opportunities of recreation, the Gulf Coast of Texas specially appeals. The Gulf Coast is lined with bays—large and small—inlets and lakes filled with trout, redfish, Spanish mackerel and other edible varieties of salt water fish. These resorts are accessible and afford unending sport and recreation for the farmer and his family."

Products of the Coast Country

Owing to natural conditions, locations and variety of soil, in the great Coast belt, it follows that the range of products is necessarily extensive, and of such character as to make it adapted to the demands of the farmer, no matter from what portion of the United States he may come.

Practically every crop grown and harvested in the various States of the Union, with the exception of wheat, barley, and rye, which are raised in North Texas, may be successfully cultivated, and with profit, in the Coast Country. So harmonious are the conditions, that as many as six of the world's prime products may be raised to a complete fruition in the same field. Cotton, corn, sugar cane, rice, oats and potatoes produce abundantly throughout the coastal plains, and the splendid fertility of the soil is taxed but little in the process.

Long summers of growing weather, mild winters and a genial sky permit the practice of husbandry for nearly twelve months of the year. There is scarcely a day that work may not be carried on in the field. This fact is one which may be surprising to the farmers from the Northern corn and wheat belts, who are accustomed to the rigors and inconveniences of at least six months of exceedingly cold weather, when cattle must be housed and fed, and the plow remain idle—expense going on and the ground producing nothing but frost. Then, too, the settlers on the wind-swept plains of Dakota and Minnesota are compelled to give their attention to one crop—a character of farming which must, in the long run, cripple both farm and farmer, and which renders the seasons long and arduous periods of anticipation, anxiety, and complete ruin when mortgages overwhelm and creditors become insistent.

Aside from the conditions which environ the cultivation of staple crops, and here the agriculturist may make his choice as to the variety, the opportunities for raising and shipping of early fruits and vegetables are infinite. The Southern latitude and comparative freedom from heavy frosts of many portions of the Coast Country, enable the growers to cultivate the tender varieties of vegetables and ship to more Northern markets long before seed has begun to germinate in the vicinity of St. Louis, Chicago, St. Paul, or any of the other cities of the Middle West.



GROWING ORANGES AT BEAUMONT

The development of this industry has been steadily augmented during the past few years, until shipments are now being made by the carload to consumers in other States, and the trade is in its infancy. What advantages the Coast Country enjoys in the matter of early vegetables in the spring, it also enjoys in the fall. As late as November 15th the gardens are green with fruiting tomato vines, potatoes, cabbage, spinach, peas, cauliflower, lettuce, radish, turnips, carrots and all the varieties of garden truck which so delight the soul and appetite of the vegetarian.

The yield is in proportion to the effort and the labor expended. The quickness of growth in the Coast Country is amazing. A branch of a grape vine grew forty-six feet in a single year and produced heavily. Figs grow well and produce large crops yearly. The tree is prolific and does well through the entire belt. The establishment of canning factories will make fig cultivation a splendid asset, as this delightful fruit is always in demand, and in the Coast Country it practically takes care of itself.

Texas is the home of the plum. It grows wild in the woods and produces abundantly. The cultivated varieties pay well while the three varieties of the wild plum are used for jams and jellies.

The following will give a fair idea as to what the settler may anticipate as the result of his efforts in the sections under discussion:

The cauliflower, when carefully cultivated, produces generously. A farmer near Beeville received \$900.00 from a single acre, which he irrigated with the output of a three-inch well. It is sown early in July, set out in August, and may be marketed in the latter part of December.

Cabbages are now being cultivated extensively in the Coast Country. One county alone sold \$100,000 worth of this vegetable. They are planted in September.

The tomato is another crop that will head the list for profit. It is safely demonstrated that the tomato will produce abundantly in the Coast Country. It begins to ripen May 20, and at once finds ready sale at high prices all over Texas and throughout the North.

The Creole, White Bermuda and Crystal Wax onions are successfully grown here. They mature in April, just when Northern onions are sprouting, and the demand is unlimited. Two hundred dollars an acre net is considered an average profit, but much larger sums have been made when greater care and cultivation has been given the crop. The White Bermuda, which is extensively grown, has yielded as much as 37,000 pounds per acre.

The shipment of onions via the Southern Pacific steamers from Galveston to New York has assumed considerable importance, and the movement is being eagerly watched by the Texas onion grower. Special provision is made in these steamers to accommodate this class of freight, which requires considerable ventilation, and everything is being done for the success of the trade. Nearly one hundred cars of onions were loaded during one week's time. A prominent grower stated that his district would ship alone not less than 1,200 carloads this season. Twenty thousand pounds per acre is an average yield.

Under careful manipulation and an intelligent system of farming, onions in Texas have produced as much as 47,000 pounds per acre, and larger yields are not infrequent. However, the larger returns are only

obtained by the use of fertilizers and where the most approved methods of onion culture are employed.

Irish potatoes do well everywhere; the early planting rarely brings under a dollar a bushel. They are a sure and profitable crop. The early crop is ready to be dug from the 20th of April to the 10th of May. One grower near Wharton, by shipping in carload lots to Chicago and St. Louis markets, netted \$60.00 per car, clear of all expenses, including cultivation, shipping and commissions, and immediately planted the same ground in cotton and picked three-fourths of a bale to the acre that fall.

Beans, peas, cucumbers, okra, squash, beets, egg plant, sweet peppers, and cantaloupes are grown in quantities, reach an early stage of perfection and find a ready market.

The melon crop is an important and profitable one. One county realized from 230 acres one season the handsome sum of \$32,966.00. This county was equally successful with "garden truck," as it reports 399 acres, valued at \$130,660.00.

Of sweet potatoes there is literally no end. They grow here as they grow nowhere else, and numberless instances could be cited in proof of the fact. Two crops a year are grown on the same ground. B. C. Moffet, of Galveston County, raised 400 bushels to the acre, and found a ready sale for them, at a dollar per bushel. Single specimens weighing over nine pounds were shown. Another grower demonstrated that the sweet potato was a most profitable crop by planting six acres. He sold 200 bushels at fifty cents a bushel to the local trade and shipped 400 bushels, at forty-five cents per bushel, and had at home 200 bushels more. The money value of the crop thus reaching at least \$380.00, or nearly \$65.00 per acre. The sweet potato is one of the most important vegetables, according to the statistics of the Annual Report of the Agricultural Bureau of Texas. The value of the sweet potato crop for the year was \$1,503,764.00. Total number of acres planted was 20,928. The value per acre was \$50.25. The cost of growing crops of corn, wheat, cotton, and potatoes is very nearly the same. The tops of sweet potatoes make a fine feed for cattle, especially milch cows.

There is no limit to the possibilities of fruit growing. Any part of the Coast Country is adapted to the successful cultivation of certain fruits; those grown to the widest extent being peaches, plums, persimmons, grapes, pears, figs, oranges, strawberries, blackberries, dewberries and mulberries. Alvin, located south of Houston, one year shipped small fruits, including strawberries, valued at \$86,680. When it is remembered that the seasons in the territory mentioned are far in advance of those of any other section of the South, it may be understood how considerable are the sources for profit and how permanent the demand. The populous centers of the North and West afford constant markets for all products.

The bee industry is one which promises much in the Coast region.

The Coast Country of Texas is especially adapted to the cultivation of pecan trees and a number of commercial groves have recently been planted. Pecans grow wild in all the river and creek bottoms, and many carloads are shipped to market annually.

Many farmers in the Texas Coast Region grow their own tobacco. The finest cigar leaf tobacco grown in the United States is raised in East Texas; such is the report of the United States Department of Agriculture in Bureau of Soils Bulletin No. 27. Mr. L. H. Shelfer, an experienced tobacco grower, raised over 2000 pounds in Orange County on less than two acres and refused 65 cents a pound after it was cured. He established a factory and worked his crop into cigars and smoking tobacco.

Camphor growing is an agricultural possibility in Texas which just now is also engaging the attention of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Coast Country is the favorite field for experimentation. Several years ago camphor seed were planted at the demonstration farm at Pierce, in Wharton County, and the experiment, under the intelligent handling of Mr. P. C. Clarke, the demonstrator in charge, soon established the fact that both soil and climatic conditions were peculiarly favorable and justified engaging in this particular branch of horticulture on a scale commensurate with its commercial value.

The Coast Country is well adapted to the growing of cassava, the tapioca plant, which has proven so valuable as a food for cattle and hogs.

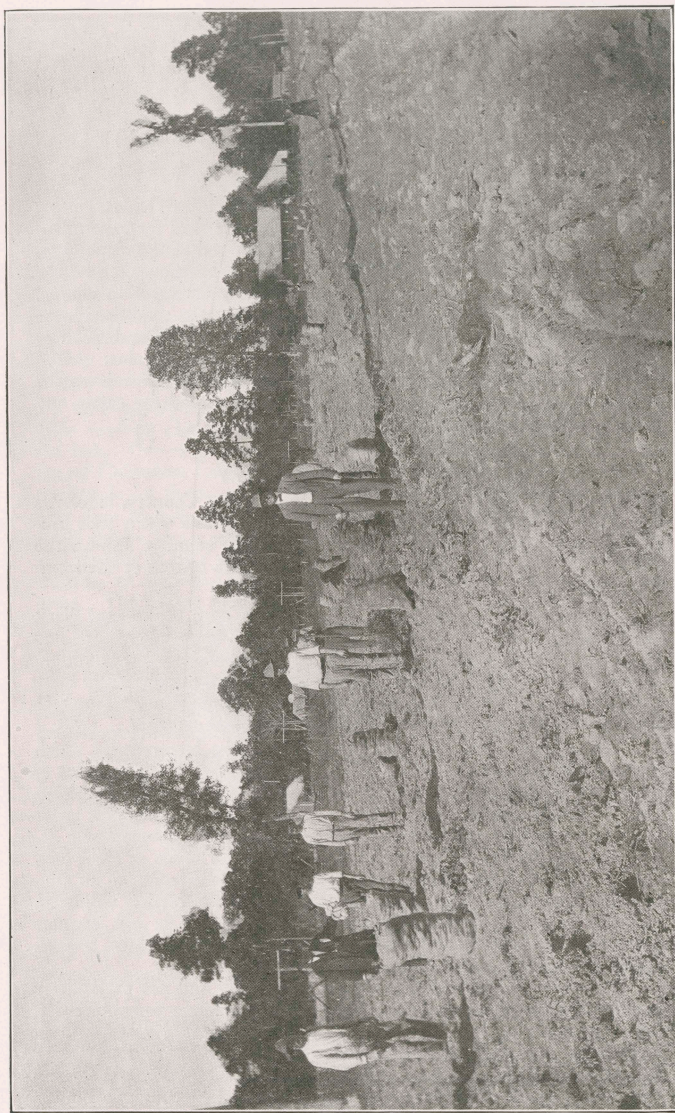
Land in the Coast Country

Due to the wonderful extent of the Texas Coast Country, it follows that there necessarily exists an infinite variety of soils which thus provide for nearly all of the great prime crops of the country, and for the smaller products which constitute no inconsiderable feature of the farmer's prosperity.

The open prairies are formed of light gray, dark brown and black sandy loam, and of a soil commonly known as "black waxy," or "hog wallow." The loams are friable and easily worked and kept in condition. They are well supplied with the chemical constituents necessary to force vegetation. The black waxy is very rich, but requires more power to force thoroughly subjugate, but will return all trouble and expense.

The bottom lands following the course of the larger rivers which traverse the belt are of wonderful fertility and depth. The bottoms of the Brazos, Colorado, Guadalupe, Old Caney and Oyster Creek are richer than the famed alluvial lands of the Nile, and constitute the finest sugar lands in the world. All temperate zone crops yield to a remarkable degree in these lands, and cotton grows to a height of seven or eight feet. Garden truck makes a splendid yield. All products common to an alluvial country attain a rare degree of excellence in the section indicated, while the sub-tropical fruits, including the pomegranate, fig and Japanese persimmon, thrive well, and near the immediate coast, oranges, lemons, kumquats and grape fruit produce well.

The price of land varies according to location and not particularly because of its inherent qualities. Near any of the larger towns or cities, land frequently sells for high figures, but in the areas devoted entirely to farming, fine lands may be purchased at prices running from twenty to forty dollars per acre, according to natural advantages, improvements, etc. These figures are very low, all things considered. Lands in Illinois, Iowa or Minnesota, which yield a net return of from eight to ten dollars



SWEET POTATO FIELD

per acre, are never on the market at values lower than \$75.00, and more commonly \$100.00 per acre. Lands in the Texas Coast Country, however, yield from \$50.00 to \$500.00 per acre, according to the crop grown. A farmer near Beeville, on one acre of irrigated land, grew \$900.00 worth of cauliflower. Another in the more arid section received a gross return of \$5,600.00 from 240,000 pounds of onions grown on seven acres by irrigation. A profit of \$200.00 on watermelons, cantaloupes and strawberries is not uncommon, and yet it is on \$20.00 land, and frequently on land of lower price.

These illustrations only serve to indicate the diversity of the Coast Country lands, and do not consider the possibilities contained in the cultivation of staple crops, which will be treated under another head, their magnitude justifying this distinction.

Climate in the Coast Country

Few portions of the United States enjoy a more delightful climate than does the Gulf Coast. It is free from the extremes of temperature which characterize the North, East, and West, and the balmy winds which sweep during the summer from the Mexican Gulf carry coolness and health in their very breath.

A feature of the summer climate, and one which explains the ability of the dweller in the Coast Country to smilingly assert his belief that no other portion of the country enjoys a more delightful temperature, is the fact that the variation of the thermometer during the heated term is about twenty-five degrees from maximum to the lowest reading during each twenty-four hours. Thus, particularly in the country districts of the coast, the use of a light cover becomes imperative during the early morning hours.

The average rainfall is in the neighborhood of forty-five inches per annum, and this precipitation is well distributed during an average year, insuring, in a measure, a certainty of harvest, no matter what be the crop. The growing months are usually marked with abundant rains, and the winter season, usually during the latter part of January and all of February, is also thus characterized.

The heated term is very healthy. Summer is usually a period of freedom from all ills which affect mankind. In this connection the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, in his annual report, said: "Away from low places subject to periodical overflows, there is no cause for sickness, and there is no reason why the State should not become a health resort as well as a refuge for persons seeking to escape the rigors of a Northern winter."

At all points eastward on the Gulf, and at all points above this latitude, northward along the entire Atlantic Coast to New York, the thermometer indicates a lower temperature in winter and a higher temperature in summer than at Galveston and along the Texas Coast Country. In other words, it is hotter in summer and colder in winter at any point on the Gulf or Atlantic Coast above this latitude than in the Coast Country of Texas. The "Norther," an important feature of Texas climate, is nothing more than what is called elsewhere a cold north wind. The

wind usually attains its greatest velocity in twenty-four hours, then gradually ceases, veering again to the south.

The winter is a succession of pleasant days, with the temperature ranging from forty to sixty degrees, falling three or four times each winter to thirty-two or thirty-three degrees, and in seasons far apart as low as twenty and twenty-five degrees, but these seasons of low temperature are of short duration and rare occurrence, and seldom cause injury. In summer the temperature ranges from eighty-four to eighty-eight degrees for weeks and months; the highest temperature in Galveston for three succeeding summers was ninety-one, ninety-three, and ninety-six. Injury from sunstroke is almost unknown. July is the warmest month. Frosts do not usually occur at Houston or Galveston until after December 1st, and the visitation is frequently delayed until January. Four years in twenty there was no frost whatever in Galveston, and in five different years there was but a single frost. The last hard frost appears any time between January 5th and February 1st.

The Galveston weather station has issued the following table which shows the distribution of rainfall, the variations of temperature and the comparatively few cloudy days:

Month	Precipitation in Inches	Temperature		No. Days No Sunshine
		Highest	Lowest	
January.....	2.86	74	35	4
February.....	1.92	75	34	3
March.....	4.96	76	30	9
April.....	5.14	81	56	8
May.....	5.38	85	63	2
June.....	7.42	90	65	2
July.....	1.82	92	71	2
August.....	5.09	90	70	1
September.....	4.79	87	56	1
October.....	4.38	89	54	2
November.....	2.37	79	49	5
December.....	2.23	75	47	4
Total.....	48.36	—	—	43

What these tables show as to the average annual temperature at Houston and Galveston applies pretty much to all the Coast Country. Records kept for thirty years at Victoria by Dr. Cook, and verified by the United States reports, shows the annual mean temperature to be 70 to 76; in July, 80 to 85; in January, 55 to 65; maximum, 95 to 100; minimum, 20 to 30 above zero. Annual rainfall 35 to 40 inches, the same as in Missouri, Iowa, Michigan and Wisconsin, and for spring and summer is 20 to 25 inches, the same as in the above States, together with Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. A. W. McLain, late of the United States Department of Agriculture, and ex-director of the Minnesota State Agriculture Experiment Station, made a careful study of the Coast Country, and says of the matter of temperature and rainfall: Average temperature in the Texas Coast district, as shown by the signal service records taken at an elevation of forty feet above sea-level, for the last fifteen years, has been for the spring months 70, 5 de-

degrees Fahrenheit; for the summer months, 82.2; for the fall months, 69.8, and for the winter months 55.7 degrees.

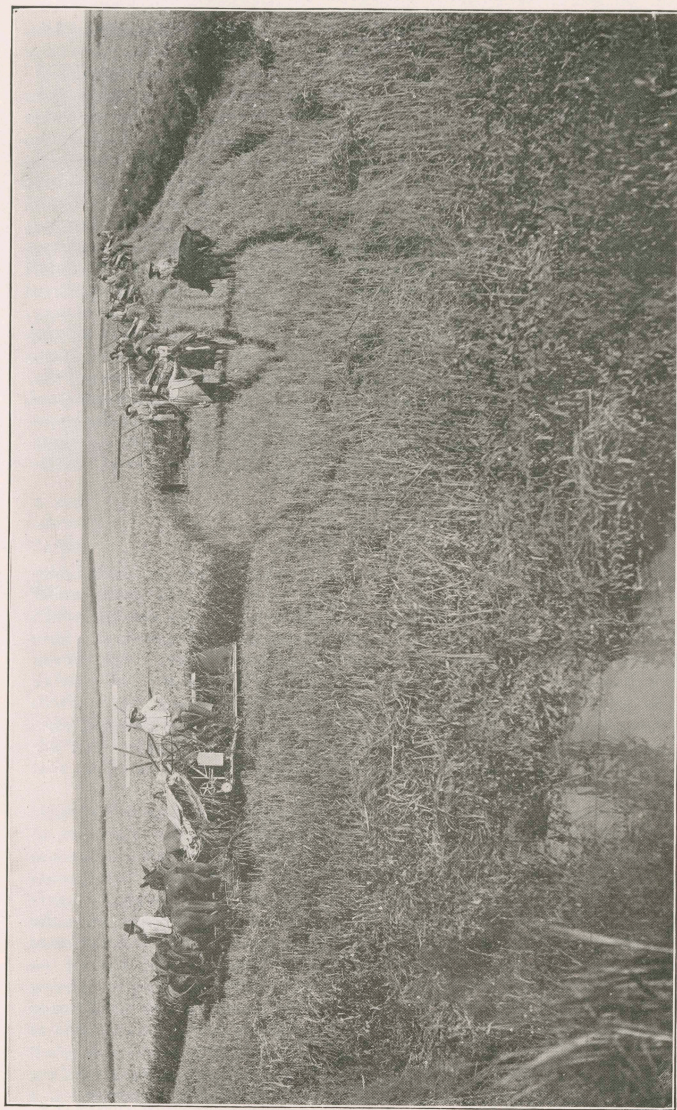
The brief description given here of general conditions which exist and obtain in the Texas Coast Country will serve to give a general idea of what the homeseeker may expect. There is much room for absolute detail, but the scope of this pamphlet is too limited to permit a minute description of the peculiarities and characteristics which are features of this favored region. Suffice it to say that the sections of the State referred to and covered by all the foregoing are exactly as represented. There has been no attempt to exaggerate conditions. On the contrary, we believe the settler, upon making investigation of the Texas Coast Country, will come to the conclusion that we have not done justice to the claim the territory has or should have upon the consideration of prospective settlers.

The Coast Country is gradually undergoing marked changes, due to the injection of new blood and new ideas from other States of the Union. Its advantages are being recognized and realized by the farmers of the Western States, and as a result of this, many thrifty and intelligent people are building anew their homes in one portion or another of the country described. Thus the prospective settler will find much to his liking and little to his dissatisfaction in making a tour of the great coastal belt traversed by the Sunset-Central Lines.

Rice in Texas

There is no crop possible of successful cultivation in the Coast Country which brings as quick returns as does this cereal. The profits, under intelligent management, fully warrant the enormous investments which have been made in recent years by both capitalists and farmers who have tired of the indifferent returns and corresponding prices which prevail in States less favored. Newcomers engaging in this industry have elected to settle in communities which permitted of intercourse with persons from their native State, with the result that towns may be found composed almost entirely of Illinois, Iowa, or Missouri families, and this condition is in a measure answerable for the general satisfaction that prevails among our farmers.

The cultivation of rice has been so far developed that it is possible to purchase lands under canals where water for irrigation is assured, to purchase where wells with a sufficient flow is guaranteed, or to purchase outright, making your own arrangements for development. Your profits will depend entirely upon your management, for there are good farmers and poor ones. Many farmers have netted a sufficient sum from the first crop to pay for the land. Others have met with only a moderate degree of success, while others have failed. This, however, was not the fault of the industry. The growing of rice is inexpensive, no labor being required after seeding, and during the entire growing period a sufficiency of water is the only requirement. Harvesting is conducted the same as for wheat, the same implements being used. After threshing, the product is placed in bags of an average weight of 162 pounds and so sold, the market quotations showing the price per bag. With the exception of a limited area in the Carolinas, Arkansas, and the extensive Louisiana belt



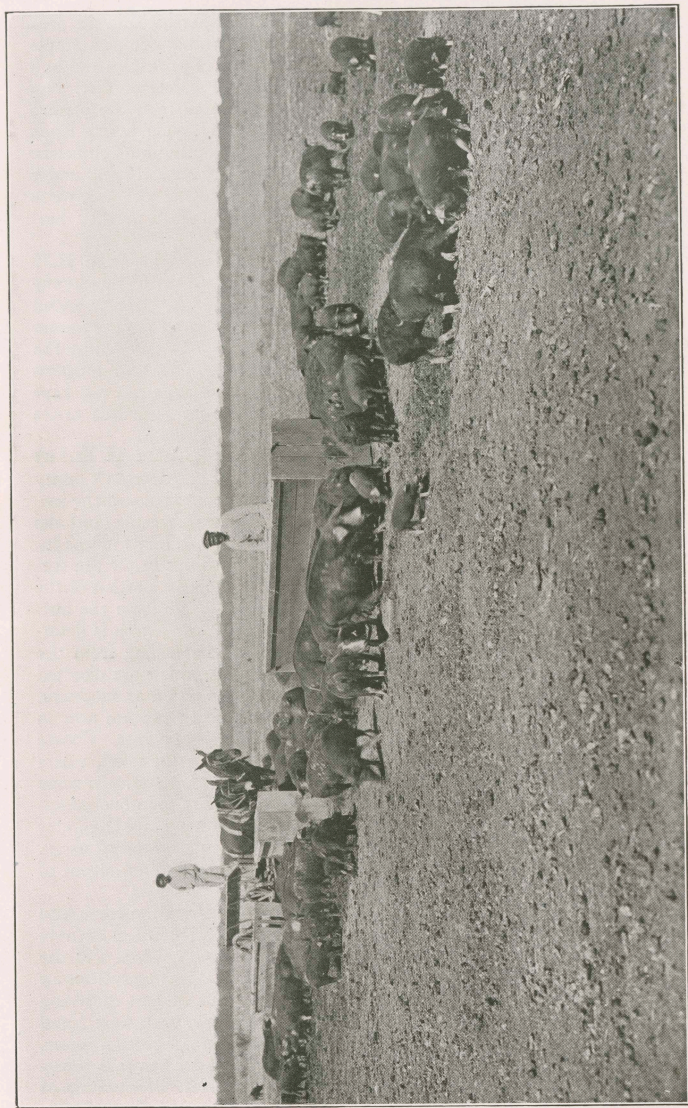
HARVESTING RICE IN THE COAST COUNTRY

there are no lands available for rice culture not included within the area of Texas. The public has begun to realize the value of rice as a staple article of food, as one which contains all the nutritive principles and in a greater degree than does almost any other single article of diet. Its digestive principles are also gradually being appreciated, many dyspeptics placing themselves on a rice diet for temporary relief. The prairie lands of the Coast Country are ideal for rice production, containing sufficient soil to nourish the plant thoroughly, and the clay subsoil lying under neath retains the water used for irrigation purposes. Once drained, these lands dry out rapidly, and will easily sustain the most weighty harvesting machinery.

The average yield per acre is 15 bags, at prices ranging from \$2.75 to \$4.00 per bag, resulting in a universal condition of prosperity in the rice districts. From an insignificant beginning the industry has expanded to a remarkable extent. An industry which is not productive to the farmer does not grow in such proportion, and the prosperity now enjoyed by the rice farmer in Texas speaks eloquently of his foresight and business acumen. Strange as it may seem, the price of rice lands has not kept pace with the development, and they may still be purchased at prices very much below their productive value.

The system of rice irrigation, by means of canals, in Texas, had its inception in the year 1892, when a canal company in Jefferson County installed a plant of some magnitude. This system contemplated the irrigation of lands not located on the banks of running streams, and the water was conducted by means of earthen levees to the lands it was intended to serve. Such canals are built overland and not below the surface, and usually follow the course of ridges or the highest portion of the land, and are constructed by throwing up parallel levees from the outside. They vary in width from 75 to 200 feet, and their length is determined by the acreage it is proposed to irrigate. Branching from the main canals are what are termed sub, or lateral canals, which are directed to the outlying farms. This means of irrigation was found so successful that the promotion of other rice canals followed until there are now in the Coastal belt over forty canal companies and pumping plants. Pumps are employed to lift the water from the river to the main canal, where it is carried by gravity to the point of diversion on the land. In some instances where the banks of the streams are high, more than one pumping plant is required, and in some cases there are re-lifts to place the water on higher areas than those which can be reached from the original canal. These pumping plants vary in capacity, the largest having an output of 125,000 gallons per minute.

For several years after the canal system of rice irrigation came into vogue, estimates of the area available for the crop were based entirely upon the water supply from streams, but it was soon discovered that the level Texas prairies were underlaid with a water bearing gravel about forty feet thick, and reached at varying depths, but seldom exceeding 250 feet. For the purpose of irrigation in this territory, wells were bored which were found to furnish an abundance of the purest artesian water. In some cases these wells flow of their own accord, but when it is necessary to pump the lift is rarely more than several feet. Thousands of such wells have been sunk throughout the rice area in the Coast Coun-

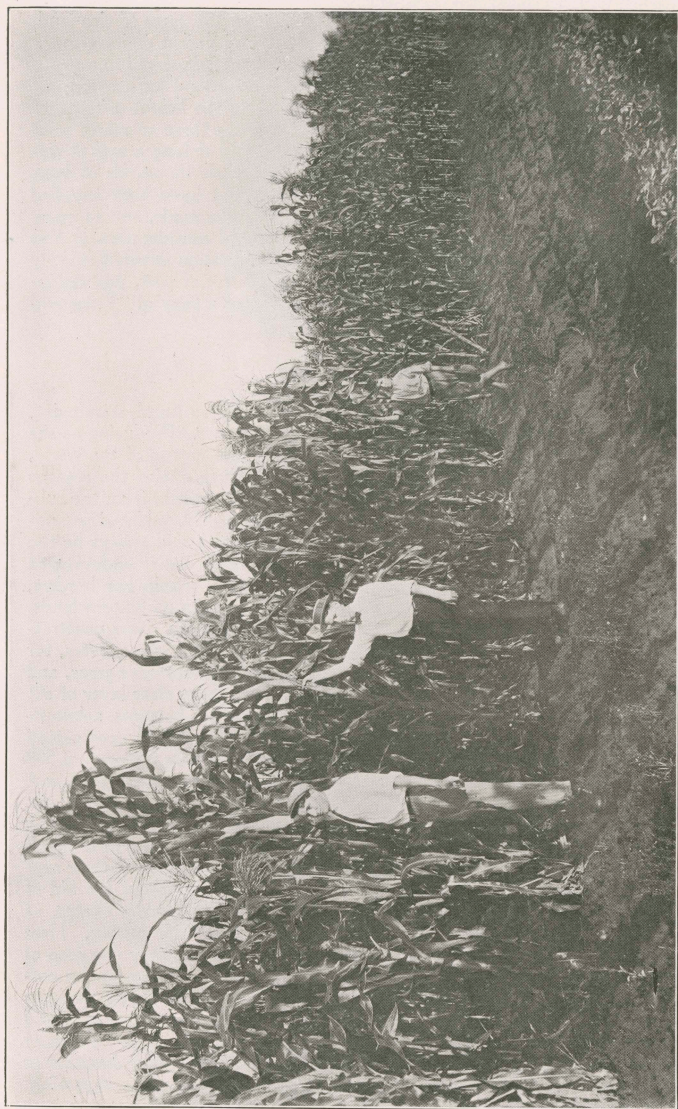


HOG RANCH IN THE COAST COUNTRY

try, a single well often being sufficient to irrigate 150 acres of rice land, for it must be understood that during the entire period of its growth, and until maturity, it is necessary to keep the land submerged to a depth of several inches, the water being retained on the land by a system of earthen embankments thrown up with a plow to the height of from 18 inches to two feet, and nowhere else on earth are there so many wells yielding such an abundance of water. The cost of sinking a well of this character is nominal, and the well system has made thousands of acres of land available for rice culture which could not have been supplied from streams. So many favorable comments can be made, and so many individual cases can be cited forcing a favorable consideration of this industry, that they have been included in a publication devoted entirely to that subject, and which is being distributed free of cost, postage included. You are, therefore, at liberty to write for a copy of "Texas and Louisiana Rice and How to Cook It."

Cotton

It is difficult to consider Texas from an agricultural standpoint, and omit what for all time will be its staple product. Producing as she does a good portion, estimated at one-fifth, of the cotton of the world, the speculative mind has long since ceased to juggle with the reasons why weather conditions during the growing season should form the subject of cablegrams to the cotton markets of the world. Notwithstanding the State's immense production of cotton, which will always be the basis of her wealth, it is estimated that the world's entire undeveloped lands best suited for its production are contained within her borders, and the most productive of these are what are known as bottom lands. Such lands extend for many miles from the banks of the rivers penetrating the Coast Country, and emptying into the Gulf. These rivers, for example the Colorado, Guadalupe and Brazos, drain immense areas, and by frequent overflows in the past have deposited layer after layer of silt composed of the richest soil, thereby forming our river bottoms, acknowledged to be the most productive known. Upon such soil does cotton grow and produce its maximum yield per acre. One bale per acre, of 500 pounds, is not considered an exception. In fact, the farmers in the Coast Counties frequently obtain a production per acre in excess of one bale. As before stated, the undeveloped cotton lands of the world are in Texas, for the older States have impressed every acre of their area in the past few years to meet the demand, and the quick consumption of their supply testified to their inability to meet the demands without the aid of Texas. Texas is the place for cotton planters of the older States, as well as for the farmers from the North, to invest their money. Here they will find cheap lands, on which they can raise not only one crop of cotton but several crops. Texas needs more cotton mills and more cotton oil mills, in order that she may receive her full share of the by-products of cotton. It can produce more of the staple than any country of the world area for area, and it will not interfere with her other crops. It will simply augment her growing wealth and more firmly establish her standing as the greatest cotton growing territory in the world. Compute, if possible, the world's increase in population; bear in mind the fact that cotton



CORN FIELD IN HARRIS COUNTY

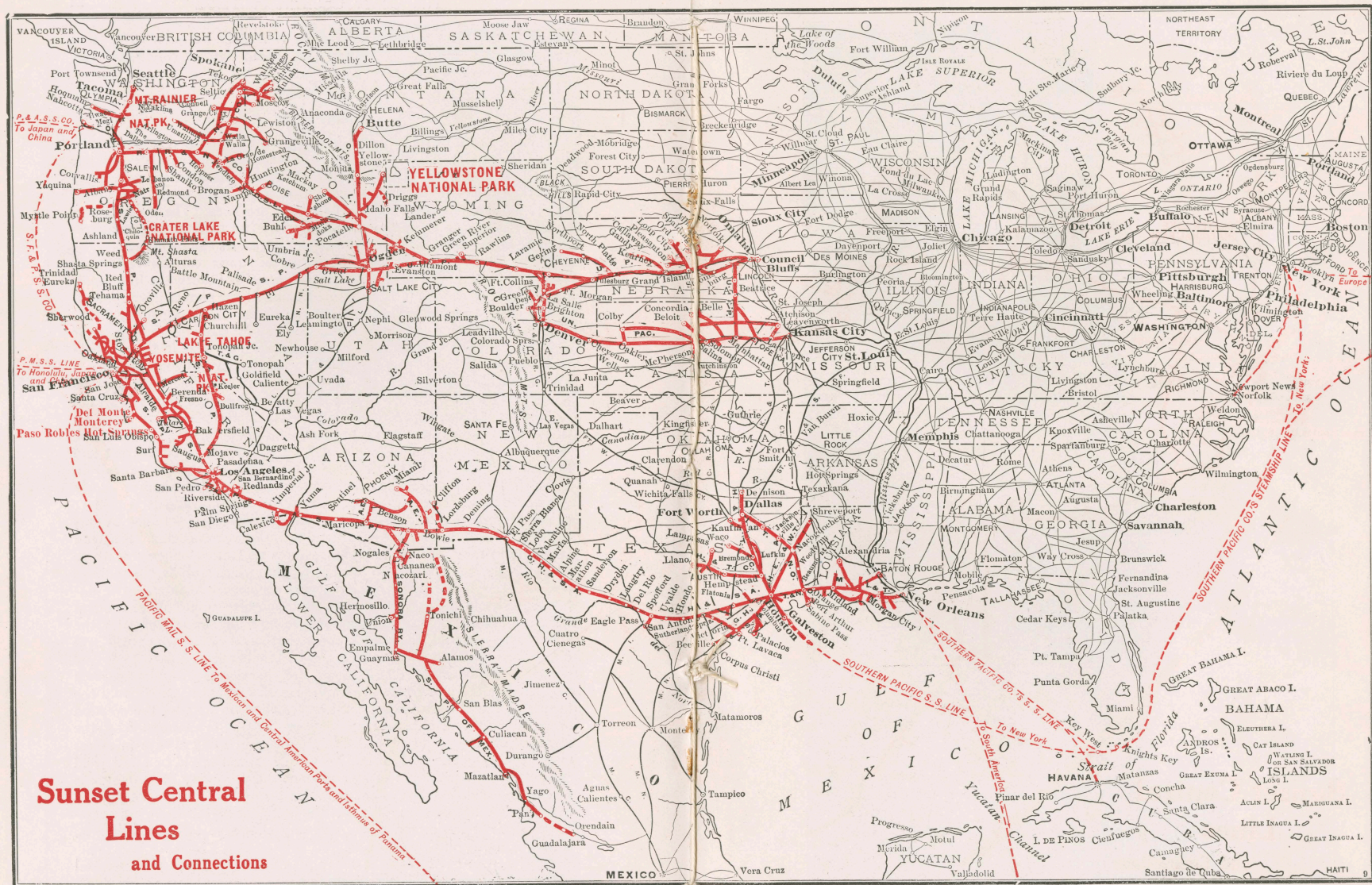
goods in the form of some commodity is a daily necessity to a large majority, and the fact is patent that under normal conditions cotton will always be profitably grown.

Sugar Cane

While the farmers of Texas are striving for further development of its agricultural possibilities, they have without question left the bar down here and there. One point in which they have failed to keep up with their opportunities is the sugar industry. Texas ought to produce ten times as much sugar as the State now produces. The consumption of sugar is increasing enormously, and there has been no complaint regarding prices in recent years except on the part of the consumer.

The domestic supply of sugar is derived from two sources, sugar cane and beets. The cane sugar far surpasses in quality the beet product, the former requiring a semi-tropical climate for perfect development. The demand for cane molasses has exceeded the supply for many years, and there is room in the Texas Coast Country for many more large sugar plantations. The average tonnage of sugar cane per acre in the rich bottom lands is 25 tons; the yield of first or white clarified sugar per ton is 150 pounds of 96 degrees test, and the cost of manufacturing per 100 pounds will average \$1.65. The cost of production per ton is less than \$2.00, figures being governed entirely by the manager's ability for "cutting corners" and otherwise securing in labor, material, etc., the full value of such monies as may be paid out for the purpose of cultivating and harvesting his crop. The molasses thrown out by the centrifugals in drying first sugar is reboiled and placed in iron tanks, where it slowly granulates, and after again passing through the centrifugals is sold at prices ranging from 5 to 10 cents per gallon. The sugar obtained by this second process is known as seconds and thirds or yellow sugars. It should be borne in mind that sugar cane requires replanting only every three or four years, and after the first harvest, is known as stubble, the tonnage per acre, however, being largest the year the cane is planted. The difference in yield is offset by a corresponding decrease in cost of production, the original cost of planting or seeding being eliminated after the first year. It would, therefore, appear that sugar lands, which will produce 25 tons per acre, and which can be purchased at \$30.00 to \$50.00 per acre, can be made almost to pay for themselves with the proceeds of a single crop, under careful and intelligent management. Should the farmer become his own manufacturer, which is possible by the erection of an inexpensive mill, he may increase his profits materially by the manufacture of syrup for table use, the demand being always in excess of the supply obtainable. From 250 to 300 gallons would be a fair yield of syrup from one acre of cane, and since the process of manufacture is inexpensive, this industry is one of brilliant promise. A point very much in favor of cane culture in Texas is the fact that no fertilizers are necessary, nor is it incumbent to provide any expensive system of ditches, canals, and pumping plants.

Before the Civil War the sugar plantations in Texas were worked with slave labor, and it is of interest to note that records are on file showing that such lands were mortgaged for as much as \$100.00 per acre as





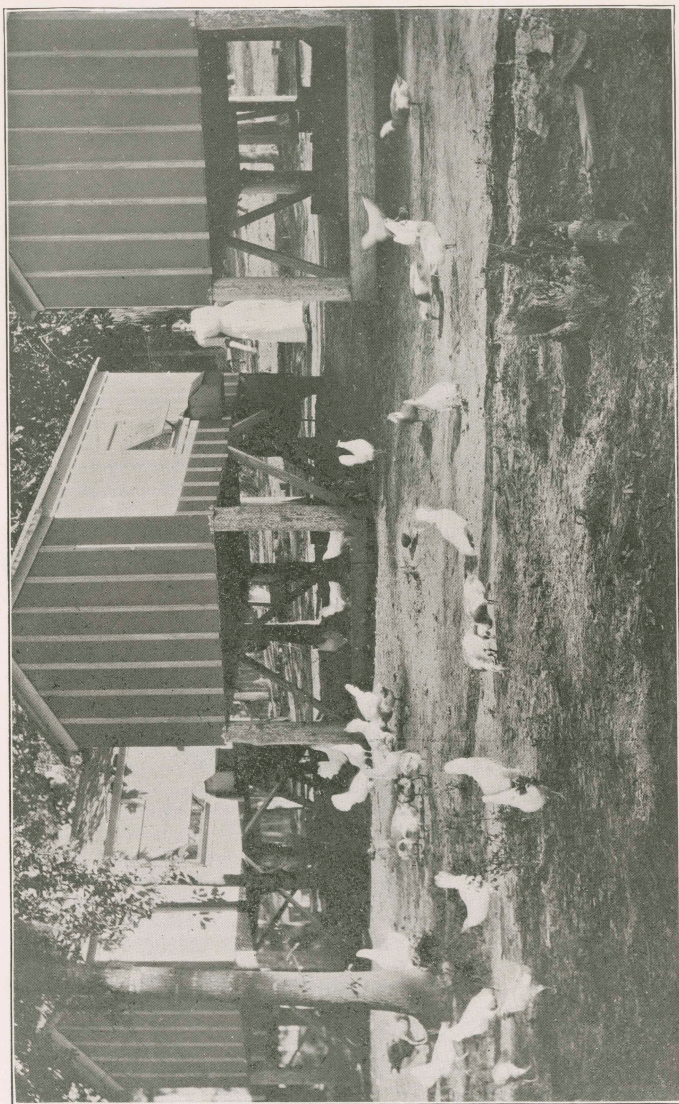
HARVESTING ALFALFA

late as 1860. Since the Civil War the industry has never been as extensive as it was before. Some difficulty in securing labor, together with the capital required for the operation of sugar plantations, according to modern methods, has had a tendency to hold this industry in check. Utilized for other crops, as they are at present, the value of such lands is not considered from a sugar producing standpoint, hence their present low value. It may be of interest here to note that where loans are negotiated for the purpose of growing sugar cane in other States, so firmly has it been established that the plant can not be successfully cultivated except by an expensive system of fertilization, that its use is made one of the conditions of a loan. On the rich bottom lands of the Coast Country not a ton of any commercial fertilizer has ever been found necessary for cane production, such lands yielding a tonnage in excess of those devoted to cane culture where the use of a commercial fertilizer is necessary. Neither cottonseed meal nor tankage (which are the fertilizers generally used in cane culture) can be purchased for less than \$18.00 to \$26.00 per ton, and since it is necessary to apply not less than one ton per acre, there is a direct tax applied to sugar culture in other States from which tax the cane growers in Texas are exempt.

One of the largest plantations and sugar mills in the South is in Fort Bend County, on the Sunset-Central Lines, and in connection with it a complete refinery is operated. That there are fortunes to be made growing sugar cane in the Coast Country is certain, and there are not less than a million acres admirably suited to its growth, and a more extensive utilization of that territory for this purpose waits only the establishment of more mills to care for its product.

Corn

The first question put by an Illinois or Iowa farmer, when told the number of bags of rice or pounds of cotton produced on an acre is, "Well, how about corn?" This for the reason that the cultivation of corn has engaged his attention at home and was possibly his main or money crop. When told that alluvial lands will produce under proper cultivation and drainage from 50 to 75 bushels per acre, he generally expresses surprise that corn is not more generally cultivated, and reasonably so. Yet the cultivation of corn in the Coast Country has been very attractive to those who have given due attention to that cereal, and the results have in many cases exceeded their expectations. The corn grower who caters to the market exercises due care in his selection of seed, and otherwise gives such attention to his growing crop as will insure returns in keeping with his efforts. Where corn is grown for feed only, it is not intended to apply to the maintenance of the farmer except in an incidental way, and in a majority of cases little care is exercised in the selection of seed, less care given to proper cultivation—result poor crops—and a calamity howl that Texas is not a "Corn State." However, the production in 1908 was 201,848,000 bushels. It is desired to call attention to the fact that whereas Iowa or Illinois will average more bushels per acre, the Texas crop is disposed of at prices fully 100% in excess of those obtained for a similar commodity in any of the other corn growing States. When Texas makes a large crop of corn and has a surplus for sale, exporters eagerly purchase



FORREST HILL POULTRY FARM

it. They prefer it to other corn because experience has shown that it reaches foreign ports in better condition than crops produced elsewhere. The reason is that Texas corn is cured by the sun's heat, and is therefore perfectly cured. The home product is quite often mixed with the grain from other States in order to raise the grade.

Alfalfa

Four harvests a year, and at least one ton per acre per cutting, is the history of alfalfa in the Coast Country, and this is because of a rich soil and a genial climate adapted to its growth. Since the price of alfalfa may be reckoned at \$15.00 per ton, it is by no means a problem in mathematics to ascertain whether or not it is a profitable crop. The seed is sown with equally good results either in the early spring or early fall, with the preference in favor of the fall planting. The proper preparation of the soil is of great importance. The land should by all means be perfectly level, and should be plowed several times and then carefully subsoiled before planting. The cost of harvesting is about \$3.00 per acre. After alfalfa has been cut it is allowed to remain on the ground to be cured, and it is then baled and either stored or shipped to market, the grower handling it as little as possible, as the foliage falls off easily. As a feed the hay is considered three times as valuable as that prepared from other forage plants, and equal in every respect to bran. The hay alone will winter hogs, and it is specially recommended for young colts and mules, as it has a tendency to produce muscle rather than mere fat, and all live stock seem to prefer it to any other food. The yield of seed from an acre of alfalfa is from 150 to 300 pounds, and its market price is 10 cents per pound. Taking 200 pounds as an average, value \$20.00, and the valuation of hay per acre per annum at \$60.00, the fact is established that alfalfa deserves the popularity it has attained. Large fields of alfalfa may be seen in many counties traversed by the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway, notably on the Borden farm at Pierce Station. The life of the plant is perennial, and it is known that there are alfalfa meadows in Old Mexico which have produced continuously for over 100 years without the necessity of replanting. Mr. A. P. Borden stated that, compared with the interest manifested in the growing of alfalfa ten years ago, the hold its culture now has upon the planters and practical farmers in the Coast Counties shows a growth of popularity unequalled by any other crop.

Cattle

The position Texas maintains as a cattle raising State is of such general knowledge as to require no comment. But that there are certain sections of the State which, on account of humidity caused either by natural precipitation or proximity to large bodies of water, furnish a greater variety of nourishing native grasses, and are for that reason reckoned better cattle ranges, may not be so generally known. All ranches may be used for the same purposes, but cattle will naturally flourish to a greater extent where conditions are the most favorable, and where the native grasses are never checked in their growth by excessive

drouth or a freezing temperature. The Coast Counties generally are favorable to forage plants, as the soil contains all the elements necessary in the make-up of first-class pasture lands. Stock raising is therefore engaged in extensively, and some of the most successful stockmen in the State place a high valuation on their ranch properties in the Coast Country. These ranch owners and stockmen almost without exception make Victoria, "The City of Roses," their headquarters, and their handsome homes (than which there are none more beautiful) speak volumes in favor of the cattle industry. It should be borne in mind that the native cattle, or "long horns," the theme of many a newspaper story, and a filler for magazines innumerable, began to disappear many years since, and in their places are today found graded Jerseys, Holsteins and Herefords, the greatest producers of milk, butter fat and flesh.

Dairies and Creameries

The development of the dairy industry in Texas during the last quarter of a century is a counterpart of Texas agriculture. Texas offers splendid opportunities for investment in the dairy industry, and while the number of creameries is not large, more are rapidly being established. The Texas Coast Country especially offers great possibilities in winter dairying. While other countries are locked in snow and ice, dairy cows in this favored region revel in luxuriant natural pastures or fields of green oats and produce the finest quality of butter at the very time of year when prices are the highest.

Peanuts, Pigs and Poultry

If you plant one acre of Spanish peanuts and harvest three tons of "goober" hay, you have the price of one bale of cotton at 9 cents per pound, for peanut hay is worth \$15.00 per ton. If you pick off or thresh the peanuts the value of your crop is increased twofold, for your peanuts will sell for at least \$1.00 per bushel, besides which you have three tons of hay worth \$45.00.

Two or three acres of peanuts would be the best forage crop a farmer could cultivate, as it would supply feed for horses, cows, and hogs, would fatten chickens and turkeys, and furnish your children with one of the most nourishing nuts in the South. The nuts will produce on any soil, but will flourish and yield heaviest on rich, well tilled land. There are many counties where the soil is of the light sandy variety specially adapted to growing peanuts, and the future will no doubt find the humble "goober" raising the notch of diversification in many of our Coast Counties. To say that hogs grow wild in Texas is literally true, and there is no industry of greater promise. Multiplying rapidly, and being great foragers, they maintain themselves throughout the entire year if permitted to range where "mast" is accessible, and they only require a few weeks' feeding to impart firmness to flesh and fat. Peanuts fed to hogs impart a most delicious flavor, in addition to which the low cost of production is an item of no mean consideration. As showing that the raising of poultry has attained considerable importance, it may be mentioned that from Gonzales, an important station on the Galveston, Harrisburg

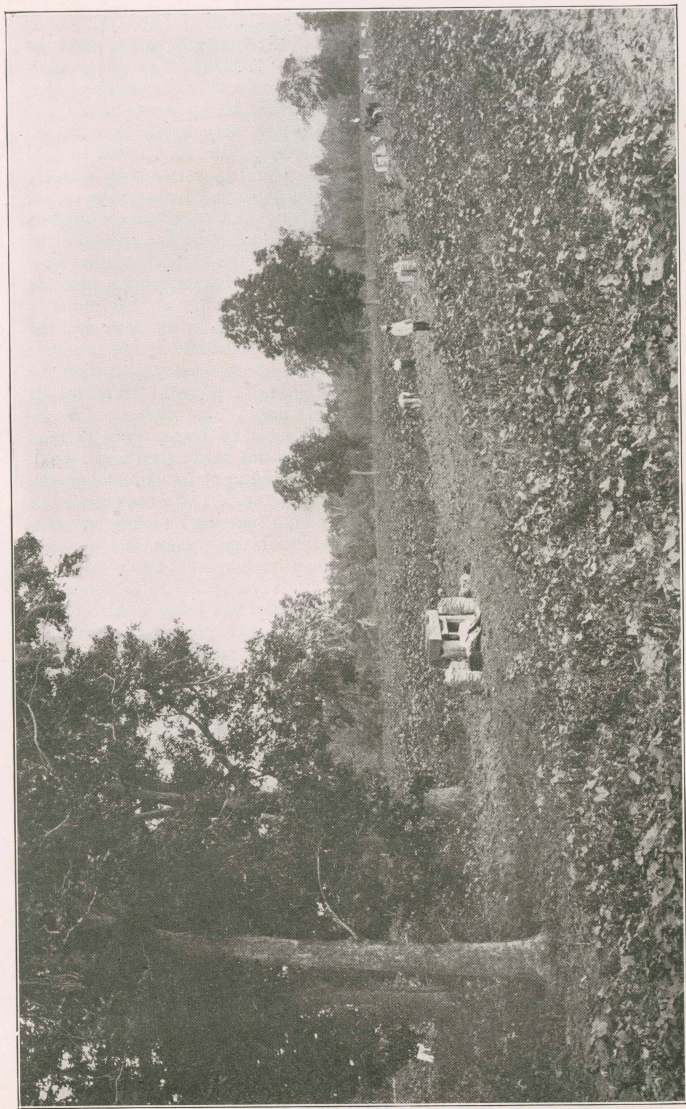
& San Antonio Railway, there was shipped a total of 2,360,000 pounds of dressed fowl during one year, requiring 118 refrigerator cars to move the product. These shipments added a total of \$350,000.00 to the circulating medium in that vicinity, and it is no wonder that the people of that section are directing their attention to so profitable an occupation.

Except those engaged in raising poultry, very few persons realize the importance of this industry and its possibilities, for it must be said that as compared with the poultry that could be raised with scarcely any expense and little labor the number of fowls to be counted as one of the assets of Texas hardly deserves mention. Unlike certain agricultural products whose growth is confined to some one of the five points of the Texas star, there is not to be found a section of the State that is not suitable for the raising of some class of poultry, chickens, ducks, geese or turkeys. When this fact becomes more generally known, the industry will doubtless make more rapid strides than it has in the past, and the grocery bill of many more farmers will be paid entirely by the products of their barnyards. Nowhere is there a climate more favorable than the Texas Coast Country, and it is surprising that investors in the numerous large poultry plants in the North, East and West, where only a few months of the year are favorable, do not move to Texas, where there is not a month in the year that chickens can not be hatched and reared. As a field for large plants devoted to the raising of broilers and fryers, as well as egg farms, Texas invites the investigation of those engaged in the raising of poultry generally. There are at present no extensive poultry farms in Texas, but there are a number of small ones, and they are making a success of the business, finding a ready market and good prices for the entire output of their farms. It is impossible to compute the number and value of poultry in Texas, figures not being available, but the signs of the times indicate that the good farmer is no longer permitting his fowls to run at large, get their own food, and roost in trees, on fences, wagons, and anything else they may happen to get on.

Thoroughbred poultry is raised, and there are several establishments with an annual output of over \$5,000.00, eggs selling for as much as \$5.00 per setting. The shipping of dressed turkeys just previous to the holidays is extensively engaged in. The turkeys, after being dressed, are kept in cold storage until ready for shipment, when they are placed in refrigerator cars, which insures perfect condition when the market is reached.

Oats

Corn lands in the Coast Country are likewise suitable for oats and they are extensively grown. The yield will average from 60 to 75 bushels, and the grain is exceptionally firm and heavy. As late as 1877 black oats was the variety planted, but about that time experiments were made with the large red or bearded oats, and the variety at present known as the Texas Red Rustproof has been produced exclusively since that time. While most of the oats grown are used for feed without being threshed, those grown for commercial purposes are sold chiefly for seed, the returns being about 10 cents per bushel over the market price when sold for that purpose. The Red Rustproof is much in favor among growers in Illinois, Iowa and Kansas, as well as the Southwestern states.



IRISH POTATO FIELD NEAR WHARTON

Irish Potatoes

A striking example of the vast commercial possibilities of Texas farm lands may be found in the potato fields in the gulf Coast Country. Last year thousands of acres were devoted to potato raising and brought thousands of dollars to the growers. "Spud Specials" (as they are locally called) loaded with potatoes for the Northern markets leave Wharton daily over the Sunset-Central Lines during shipping season.

Practically all Texas railroads have their "Spud Specials" and are doing their utmost to render the potato farmer every possible assistance in marketing this valuable crop.

The average crop of spring-planted potatoes in the Coast Country yields about 150 bushels to the acre and brings an average price of \$1.25 per bushel, thus making the yield approximately \$187 an acre. The cost of seed, labor, etc., will reach about \$37, leaving a net profit for each acre of \$150. After the potato crop is harvested the land may be planted to cowpeas, a legume rich in nitrogen, which will yield a net profit of about \$50 an acre.

After the cowpeas are harvested a second crop of potatoes, either sweet or Irish, may be planted, and are usually more profitable than the first.

One grower in Fort Bend County states that the total profits from his thirty acres of potatoes were as follows:

The first crop of potatoes \$1,300, the crop of cow peas \$600.00; the second crop of potatoes \$2,800, or \$4,700 in all.

Those of us who were reared on the farm can remember the little, half-cared-for patch of potatoes that was raised for home consumption. Had we then been told that the time would come when vast tracts would be devoted entirely to this one crop, we would have considered the informant a dreamer. But under scientific management no crop has proved such a regular producer and reliable moneymaker.

Broom Corn

While the intelligent comment of other States upon the prosperity so apparent and also so real in Texas is to the effect that much of it is due to the preaching by the press of the gospel of diversified industries, it is in order for us to extend the diversification. There is nothing that is more profitable to a State than the growth of such products as naturally suit its soil and climate, and when they are only produced in circumscribed localities, and can be readily converted into manufactured articles, they are certain to find a ready sale at home. The broom industry is one of these. Texas can raise broom corn in sufficient quantities to meet at least the necessities of its own market. Not many of the states have done anything with this staple, and outside of a few counties in Illinois, there is no centralization of the industry. Good broom corn sells at from \$60.00 to \$125.00 per ton, according to the quality and the demand, and it seems to the layman that it would be a good thing for more of the farmers in the Coast Country to engage in its production. It has been demonstrated that a ton of broom corn per acre is not an uncommon yield in the Coast Country, and such farmers as have devoted any attention to this industry are more than pleased with the returns obtained.

Truck Farming

While much attention is being given to the more staple products, the trucking industry is manfully following in the wake of the more pretentious enterprises, and all markets of the North and East are now looking to Texas and the Coast Counties for their table supplies of early vegetables. Not boastfully, but in a spirit of fairness, the declaration is made that in the matter of early vegetables South Texas has every state in the Union whipped to a finish. With strawberries in January, roasting ears, tomatoes, beans, okra, cucumbers, etc., in April, and the luscious Texas melon in May we are entitled to some consideration, even though it be deemed timely to quote the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. Not only do truck gardens mature their crops earlier, but they are matured with less effort, and truck growers are thereby enabled to secure for their product the very highest market prices. In many sections, notably at Beeville in Bee County, the terminus of the Victoria Division, there have been established State Demonstration Farms, which have been productive of many good results, and have enabled farmers to learn the most approved methods of cultivation, and how to prepare their products for market properly. As an example, there was produced and marketed from one acre of land in charge of the State's demonstrator \$700.00 worth of Tabasco peppers. The peppers were carefully picked, shipped in sacks, and sold to a manufacturing firm in Pittsburg. Cauliflower, celery and cabbage are grown with little effort. Irish and sweet potatoes do well on the rich, sandy bottom lands, and some phenomenal yields are recorded. Close proximity to the flourishing cities of Houston, San Antonio, Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur and Galveston, with a combined population of over 300,000, furnishes a ready market, virtually at the gardener's very door, and so great is the demand for table usage that the markets are never glutted. By intensive farming and a rotation of crops many gardeners secure large returns, and easily rank among our most prosperous citizens. It is seldom that artificial irrigation is resorted to, for the reason that the rains are well distributed, and usually supply all the moisture required for the growing crops. But in order to provide against a possible season of drouth, the larger growers provide for artificial irrigation, a bountiful supply of pure artesian water being obtainable at depths ranging from 40 to 150 feet. Texas onions, both the Crystal Wax and White Bermuda, have attained a national reputation for flavor and shipping qualities, and hundreds of carloads are sold annually in the Northern and Eastern markets. Secure a tract of good bottom land, properly drained, and every acre, with intelligent cultivation, should net you from \$100.00 to \$300.00 annually, and when it is considered that by the addition of cows, hogs and poultry, which can all be maintained on a truck farm, no cash outlay is required for family maintenance, the inducements to engage in that industry are particularly alluring.

Cabbage, watermelons and cucumbers were some of the first crops raised by truck farmers in the Texas Coast Country that were shipped in carload lots to other states. In Northern markets these particular Texas products have the reputation of being second to none in quality and flavor. In the towns which are the principal shipping points, buyers congregate annually during marketing seasons and pay cash for these products at the car door. Hundreds of carloads are shipped every year

from the celebrated cabbage, melon and cucumber districts, and less crop failures and bigger profits are reported by growers who make a specialty of raising these three important vegetable products, for which there is always a steady demand.

Celery

Over one thousand dollars net from one acre of farming land may sound almost incredible to those farmers who are wont to feel that they have done well if they manage to clear from ten to twenty dollars cultivating some other crop, but that is what was made by a farmer in the Coast Country. To be exact, Mr. Voltz sold from this one acre about 39,000 pounds of celery, for which the gross receipts were \$1,979.80, the net profit after paying all expenses of growing and marketing being \$1,025.00.

The celery planted was of the Golden Self-blanching variety, and was sown during the month of September, cultivated three times, and 1,000 pounds of fertilizer applied to the acre. This fertilizer was applied shortly after the celery was transplanted and thoroughly incorporated in the soil by cultivation and irrigation. Water was applied every 12 to 14 days except near the period of maturity. The first celery was marketed on April 1st, and shipments continued until May 10th. The total amount harvested was 390 crates of about 100 pounds each. The result of this phenomenal yield has induced many of the truck growers to prepare for the growing of celery, which, maturing as it does in the Coast Country when the markets of the North are bare, can be depended upon to bring profitable returns.

Fruit Growing

The subject of fruit growing, considered from every standpoint, and including every variety which has been successful, has been exhaustively treated by practical fruit growers, and is included in a special booklet prepared for that purpose and distributed free of cost. It is the purpose, here, merely to call attention to the fact, which may not be of general knowledge, that the Coast Country is the home of many varieties of fruit grown for commercial purposes. Figs, plums, peaches, pecans, lemons, oranges, persimmons, both native and the Japanese variety, as well as grapes, are not only grown but are prolific in their returns.

Oranges of several varieties flourish, and by a process of grafting have been made hardy, and withstand our mild winters, yielding abundantly. Figs of every variety find in the Coast Countries every element of soil and climate essential to the production of size, flavor and shipping qualities, although shipments are never made except to nearby points, owing to an active local demand. Commercial orchards are now being planted for the purpose of supplying several preserving plants recently established, and it is understood that the entire crop of figs has been contracted for covering a period of several years. There are vast possibilities in fig culture, and it is an indication of the spirit of diversification that our farmers are preparing to grow this most delicious fruit as a commercial crop.



BLOODED CATTLE

In regard to the cultivation of grapes, the Coast Country is, so far as known, the only part of the republic east of California where the finest European grapes attain the greatest perfection. As they ripen here from four to six weeks earlier than in California, the viticulturists of this coast have the run of the markets when there is no competition, and their comparative proximity to the body of consumers gives them great and permanent advantages over California. These grapes are pruned down to a mere stump and the trailers or vines permitted to run out over the ground as in California vineyards, without the viticulturist being put to the expense of supports, wires or stakes. They are ready for market by June 1st, and frequently obtain high prices.

Strawberries

The strawberry season opens early, and about sixty days in advance of all competition. The sandy lands of the Coast Country are well adapted to this berry, and the annual net returns for some years have been \$150 to every acre of berries. The blackberry grows over a much larger territory, and by many has been found to be as profitable as the strawberry. Strawberry picking and shipping begins about the middle or latter part of January, and not later than February 15th, in any part of the Coast Country, and the early berries often bring \$1 per quart in the Northern markets. The shipping season lasts about three months. One man reported that he had gathered 1,000 quarts of ripe berries from one acre in one day. Another, who said he was only an amateur in gardening, reported that he made \$300 per acre profit on strawberries last season.

The following estimate taken from a reliable source is considered conservative. The cost of production in the estimate is sufficiently high to cover every item of expense, while the estimated profits are much less than the actual average, and are for an acre of raw prairie land.

One acre of land.....	\$25.00
Breaking first time.....	3.00
Harrowing and re-breaking.....	2.50
13,000 strawberry plants.....	26.00
Planting.....	7.00
Cultivating twice and fertilizer.....	7.00

Total.....\$70.50

This one acre of strawberries, set out in June, July or August, will, if properly cared for, net the owner the following spring \$100 to \$150. The second year it will net from \$200 to \$250.

Pecans

Texas has long been the chief pecan State of the Union, and she proposes in the future to outdo her efforts in that direction. Not only are the native pecan trees being cared for and preserved, but every nurseryman is actively engaged in propagating the celebrated thin shell varieties for which the State is famous.

All told, the State has over one million wild trees, and a large number of trees that have been propagated by the Texas pecan growers.

Each tree is expected to produce from one to five bushels of nuts, which are worth from ten to twenty-five cents per pound on the open market. The wild pecan sells for the former price, while the cultivated pecan ranges in value up to the latter figure, and it is estimated that a yearly income of \$25.00 should be the returns from a matured tree of an improved variety. As 25 trees can be grown on an acre, it will be readily seen that the present interest in pecan culture is fully warranted. That Texas has only recently begun to realize her possibilities in this direction is to be seen in the fact that in former days pecan trees were ruthlessly destroyed in clearing her lands for farming purposes, but of more recent years such trees have begun to receive their proper valuation, and in the years immediately ahead of us, they are destined to be treasured yet more. It is not alone the vegetarian and nut food folks who have an appetite for the pecan. We all like them, and their place can not be filled by any other nut. In view of the fact that the pecan tree has propagated itself, and grows wild in every county in the Coast Country, it is truly surprising that the nurserymen should have so long delayed an active campaign looking to the establishing of commercial orchards in Texas, the same as has been done in California with the English Walnuts.

Bee-Keeping

Expert beekeepers place the total number of colonies in Texas at over one-half million, with a production of over 5,000,000 pounds of honey annually. In the number of colonies Texas is well in the lead, yet it has only been about fifteen years since the industry received any of the attention it should have had in the way of employing up-to-date methods. New hives and improved methods of handling have taken the place of the old-time hives and the antiquated ways of the beekeeper of the past. For the extraction of honey from the comb the following methods are employed: The honey cells, after having been filled, are capped by the bees with a thin coating of wax, and the honey can not be extracted until the caps are removed, which is done by means of a sharp knife. When the combs are uncapped they are placed in the extractor. This vessel is usually made of zinc, and about the size of a large barrel, supplied with racks made to fit the comb frame, which by centrifugal force is made to throw out the honey, it being drawn from the extractor by means of a faucet. The frames are then replaced in the hive to be again uncapped when filled with honey. Some years it is possible to make an extraction every six weeks, the production of honey being entirely governed by the profusion of wild flowers. For the market, honey is placed in tins of various sizes and so sold. The profusion of wild flowers in the Coast Country makes it an ideal section for beekeeping, and the regularity of our flowering plants renders it possible for the industrious little workers to keep busy during the entire year.

Mrs. Jennie Atchley, of Beeville, who is one of the most successful apiarists in the country, says:

"Since I have located my queen rearing establishment and beekeeping plant in Bee county I have spared neither time nor pains to fully explore this as a bee country, and I find wild bees in great profusion here, as well as tame bees, and find that the bees kept here are the native

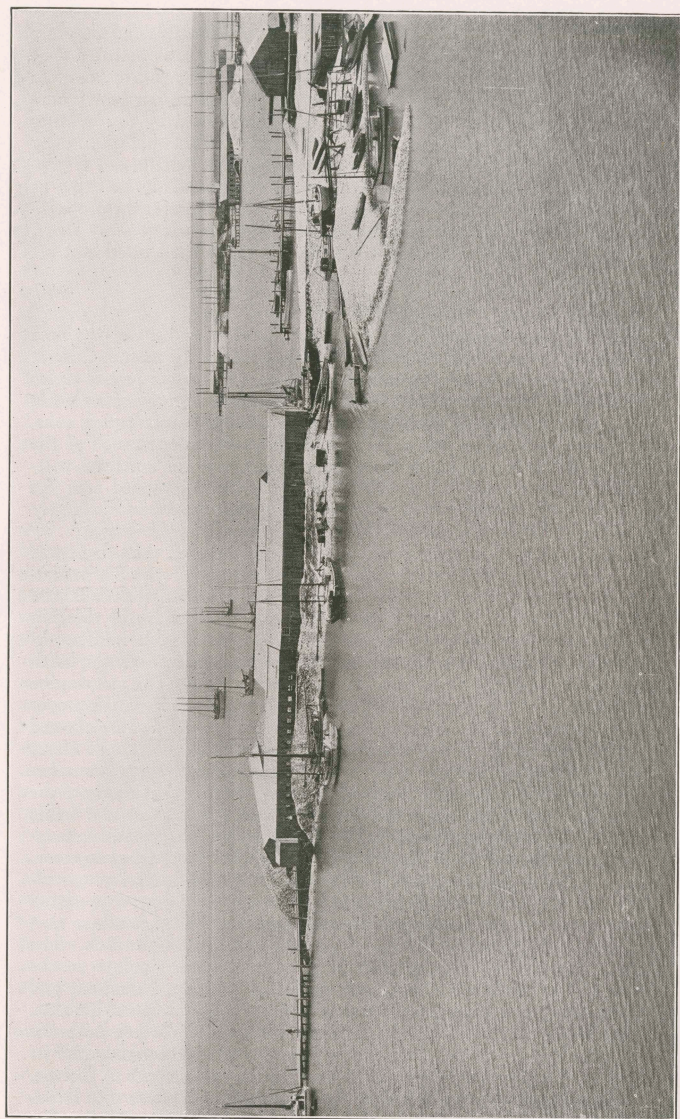
stock with only a touch of the Italian blend occasionally, and they are rich in stores and prosper without attention. I am fully satisfied that this country will never experience a failure of the honey crop, as does California and other parts of the Pacific Coast, because our honey here is gathered from trees and shrubs that are not affected by dry weather like the sages and honey plants of California. I find that the honey here will compare favorably with the honey of the North, and is pronounced by A. I. Root, a noted bee man of Medina, Ohio, as being as fine honey as he ever saw. The climate here is just right for the propagation of the honey bee the year round, and, to make a long story short, will say that I consider this the finest bee country in the United States."

Texas Timber

It has been estimated that about twenty-five per cent of the area of Texas is covered with timber, and for that reason the manufacture of lumber is one of its most important industries. Its timber area is thrice valuable, for the reason that it embraces such a variety of valuable woods, from the loblolly, short leaf and more valuable long leaf pine, oaks, cottonwood, ash, gum, pecan, etc., to the high priced hardwood of the tropics. While this timber is to be found throughout the northern, eastern and southern portions of the State, the principal wooded area lies between the Sabine and Trinity Rivers, in Eastern Texas, and is largely to be found within that section designated as the Coast Country.

A government expert several years since estimated that there was still available, notwithstanding the immense output of the 800 manufacturing plants now in operation, a total of not less than 67,000,000,000 feet of merchantable yellow pine timber alone, irrespective of the millions of acres containing a magnificent growth of valuable hardwoods. With the exception of a small number of important enterprises, the hardwood resources of the State have hardly been touched. The yellow pine output, however, is about 900,000,000 feet annually. In cutting over the land for saw timber, the trees that are too small for lumber are allowed to stand, and as the young trees grow in diameter at the rate of about three-fourths of an inch per year, they in the course of a few years become available for the saw. Notwithstanding the fact that much of the young timber is being converted into hewn ties, the interest now being devoted to forest preservation in Texas justifies the hope that our magnificent pineries will stand the drain upon them for many years to come. There is also a growing demand for the cutover pine lands for agricultural purposes in Eastern Texas, and large tracts which once supported stately pines have responded to an intelligent husbandry, and are now producing valuable crops of cotton, corn, tobacco, fruit, and truck. The bulk of the lumber manufactured in Texas comes from points on the Texas & New Orleans Railroad and its Dallas division, Beaumont and Orange being the general distributing points. For foreign shipments, Sabine Pass, Port Arthur and Galveston are the ports where both the lumber and timber are handled, Sabine Pass having long been noted for its shipment of white oak staves to the wine producing countries of Europe.

Orange probably ranks first in the production of lumber, with Beaumont second. Logs are sent to both points both by river and rail. The



OYSTER HOUSE AT PORT LAVACA

Texas output of lumber is sold in nearly every country on the globe, but the bulk of it is placed in the United States and Mexico. A large quantity of pine timber is used by the railroads for car-sills, bridge timbers, etc., and because of the fact that its strength almost equals that of oak, its use has almost supplanted that wood for many purposes. But the most glittering opportunities in the manufacture of lumber in Texas today lie in the utilization of its valuable hardwoods, which could be converted so readily and inexpensively into thousands of articles of daily use, furniture, wagon material, tool handles, churns, stepladders, crates, baskets, barrel staves, basins, etc. All of the above would meet with a ready demand at home, in addition to which the exportation of many of the articles enumerated could be developed.

Oil

The Texas Coast "fuel oil" fields, as they are frequently termed, represent one of the most remarkable phases of nature's wonders. Man's research has given to man a material which is destined to revolutionize existing methods, and place a lever in the hands of the manufacturer which must force the State to a position its facilities and advantages demand. Cheap fuel is the center about which the manufacturing world revolves. It makes possible the conversion of raw products into finished articles and enables the artisan and capitalist alike to demonstrate the possibilities contained in nature's storehouse. In its possession, Texas is at once placed to the front and enabled to compete with the great coal States, and to offer inducements to idle capital in the rich Eastern and Middle States. The Texas oil fields have exceeded in results the known oil territory of the entire world. Discovered on January 10, 1900, the Texas oil fields have developed so rapidly that today they are capable of supplying the entire demand for this commodity in this country and have attracted the attention of capital throughout the entire world. Over \$10,000,000 have been expended in actual operations. The total capitalization exceeds \$300,000,000. Nearly \$20,000,000 has been spent in the purchase of oil stock. Over 350 miles of six and eight-inch pipe have been used in wells and pipe lines. The production of oil in the Texas oil fields during one year footed up the grand total of 30,404,263 barrels of 42 gallons each. This represents the greatest output of fuel oil the world has ever known, and the extension of the territory will soon demonstrate a source of unending wealth for the State, and of prosperity to the surrounding country. Who will dare to sketch the possibilities along this line alone?

Oysters

The oyster industry of Texas, although of recent origin, has grown rapidly, but it has only followed in the footsteps of Texas enterprises of a similar character. As late as 1880 the only oyster shippers in the State were located at Galveston, and the output was inconsiderable. With the construction of new lines of railroad, many of the Gulf and Bay shore towns, by reason of adequate shipping facilities, began working the extensive natural oyster beds, until there are at present numerous firms engaged solely in the oyster industry, notably at Port Lavaca and



A HUNTING PARTY IN ORANGE COUNTY

Palacios, on the Victoria division of the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway, the former being the largest oyster shipping point in the State. The result of this development has been that it is more difficult to supply the demand than it is to find a market for the superior oyster the Texas coast is producing. The industry has assumed such importance that laws have been enacted looking to the protection of the natural oyster beds by enforcing the regard of the oystermen for a long breeding period, and regulations as to the size of the oyster that may be taken. At the same time these laws amply protect the investor in oyster culture. The cultivation of oysters contemplates the selection of some suitable water area not already an oyster bed, and the stocking and planting of that location with seed oysters procured from the natural oyster reefs.

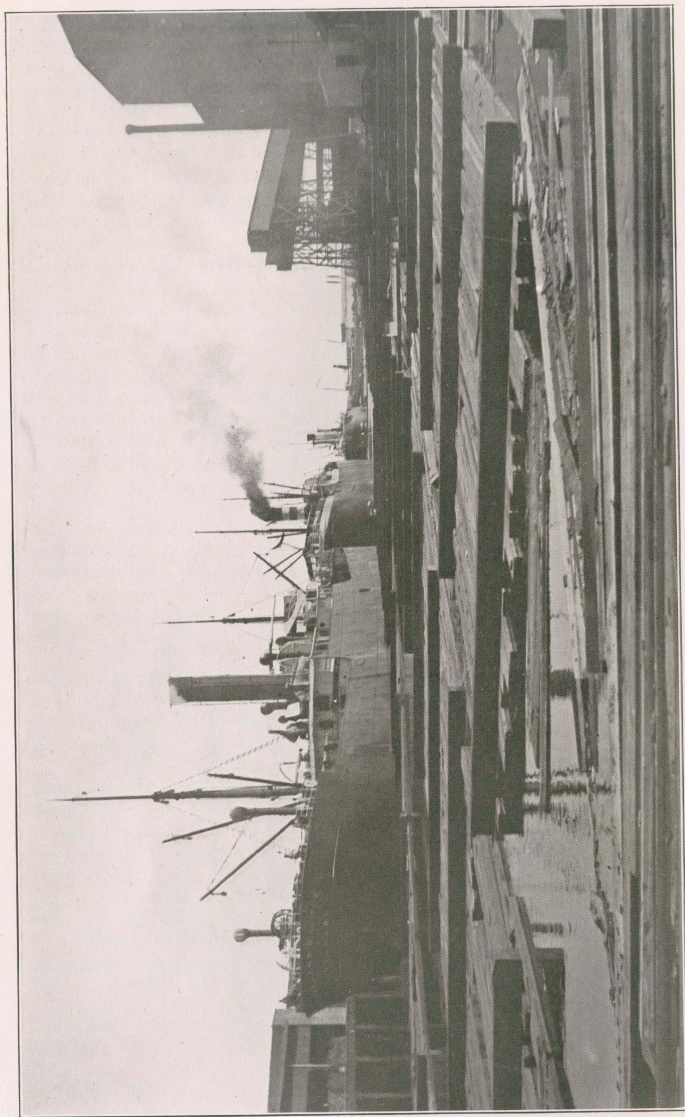
Of course, the planter's profits are derived from the natural increase and growth of the oysters planted, and as an acre of oysters set in a good locality will produce at least 300 barrels of marketable oysters in three years after planting, which at 25 cents per barrel will net \$75.00 per acre, the profits should equal that of many land crops. The natural advantages for successful cultivation of the oyster in Texas are unequalled, and the numerous oyster shucking establishments, prominent features of the industrial life of our sea coast towns, are fully warranted by the importance which the industry has assumed.

Fish

The importance of the fish industry of Texas has been considered of such moment that special laws have been enacted for their protection during spawning season, for it early became apparent that if the fish were not to be exterminated they must be allowed to propagate, and that for fishermen to go into the breeding bays for their catch was literally killing the hen that laid the golden egg. Rigid enforcement of the fishing laws was followed by a natural increase in all species of fish inhabiting the waters of the Texas coast. Those most desirable and appreciated for table use are the trout, redsnapper, flounder, Spanish mackerel, sheephead, bluefish, croaker, pompano and redfish.

The fish industry of our coast towns is estimated at 10,000,000 pounds annually, valued at over \$700,000, one plant alone located at Galveston being valued at over \$500,000, with an annual output of over 4,000,000 pounds. This company has in service twenty large seagoing schooners with a crew of ten men each, engaged in this business. Besides edible fish, the tarpon is also found in quantities, and is a perpetual delight to anglers who visit Texas for the purpose of indulging in this splendid sport. In times past sea turtles were caught in quantities in Texas waters, and were handled with much profit by those engaged in the trade. The diamond back terrapin thrive on the Texas coast and raising them for Eastern markets will some day prove a profitable industry. The demand is usually strong, and the prices good. Considering the possibilities of the Texas fish industry, it would seem that our people have been slow in realizing its importance.

However, the industry is being investigated fully and followed by investments, and the signs of the times point to a not far distant day



SHIPPING AT PORT ARTHUR

when Texas will take her place among the leading fish producing States of the Union.

Besides fish and oysters the markets of inland cities and towns in Texas are kept supplied with shrimp and crabs from the Gulf Coast bays and reefs.

Hunting and Fishing

Some of the finest shooting and fishing grounds in the world are to be found along the Gulf Coast of Texas. The localities in the United States where a sportsman can reap the reward of his quest without long and difficult overland trips are becoming fewer year by year. The Coast region of Texas presents the unique distinction of being in that stage of agricultural development wherein there is a blend of the primitive with the modern. Deer and other wild game still abound in the forests and dense underbrush in close proximity to new towns and farming communities. In some of the big thickets bears are still to be found and are occasionally captured by well-known hunters.

In the bays and ponds all along the Coast wild ducks and geese abound in countless numbers. The shattered and wasted grain in the rice fields is a great attraction for all kinds of wild fowl in the fall and winters. Wild turkeys and prairie chickens are common in some localities and quail, snipe and plover can be found everywhere. Squirrels and rabbits find a ready sale in all markets.

Every fisherman is familiar with the tarpon or silver king. This noble game fish is quite common during the summer and affords excellent sport at the famous fishing resorts of the Texas Coast. Many other species of fresh and salt water fish are abundant. Those who like fishing and hunting always find unusually favorable opportunities for the use of rod or gun and readily admit that the Texas Gulf Coast Country has been rightly named "The Sportsman's Paradise."

THE following is a list of counties in the Texas Gulf Coast Country which are reached by the SUNSET-CENTRAL LINES. Persons desiring special information in regard to any particular county should address the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at any of the county seats mentioned.

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HARDIN	KOUNTZ
LIBERTY	LIBERTY
MONTGOMERY	CONROE
HARRIS	HOUSTON
GALVESTON	GALVESTON
FT. BEND	RICHMOND
BRAZORIA	ANGLETON
WHARTON	WHARTON
COLORADO	COLUMBUS
MATAGORDA	BAY CITY
JACKSON	EDNA
CALHOUN	PORT LAVACA
VICTORIA	VICTORIA
DE WITT	CUERO
GOLIAD	GOLIAD
BEE	BEEVILLE

Any of the books herein enumerated may be had by applying to an Agent of the SUNSET-CENTRAL LINES or by writing to the General Passenger Agent.

FACTS AND FIGURES FOR FARMERS,
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TEN TEXAS TOPICS

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